



Photo by Todd Berenger

Andrews leads 377th Air Base Wing

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Chedister, Air Armament Center commander, Eglin AFB, Fla., presents command of the 377th Air Base Wing to Col. Henry L. Andrews Jr., July 10 in a ceremony here. Col. Kathleen D. Close, who relinquished command of the wing, is transferring to the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center,

Tinker AFB, Okla., as vice commander. Andrews formerly commanded the 305th Maintenance Group, 305th Air Mobility Wing, McGuire AFB, N.J. and the 380th Expeditionary Maintenance Group in Southwest Asia.

Andrews: focus on mission, readiness, support

BY JENNIFER E. WEST
377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs
“What you see is what you get,” said Col. Henry “Hank” L. Andrews Jr., new 377th Air Base Wing commander. Andrews took command of the wing in a ceremony yesterday.

And, what you get, he explains, is an “intense” and “quite candid” commander who is “more than a little traditional in military terms.”

Beyond the surface of that straightforward picture Andrews paints himself as a treasure chest of interesting experiences during a diverse Air Force career.

As a logistics group commander

at McGuire AFB, N.J., he worked with government agencies to move search and rescue teams to the World Trade Center “ground zero” after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

During deployment in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, Andrews was an expeditionary maintenance group commander, launching more than 1,600 air refueling and reconnaissance sorties that affected coalition success and ultimately helped liberate Iraq’s people. Serving at the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Andrews was instrumental in crafting and shaping American

policy for peacekeeping in support of ending a long foreign conflict in a country that now enjoys more stability.

Most recently, he commanded the 380th Expeditionary Maintenance Group in Southwest Asia and the 305th Maintenance Group, 305th Air Mobility Wing, at McGuire AFB.

Andrews believes the diversity of his early Air Force assignments will be beneficial while commanding the 377th Air Base Wing.

As a wing executive officer, a major air command protocol officer and a numbered air force commander’s aide de camp, Andrews observed the “big pic-

ture” beyond his own assignment, and uses the experience in his leadership.

“Working with our airmen, our (noncommissioned officers) and young officers in maintenance has given me some appreciation for their needs and our obligation to help them achieve great things,” Andrews said.

“I am totally committed to developing future leaders, by grooming replacements, through the effective mentoring of young officers and NCOs,” Andrews explained.

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